

Mahmoud Abbas arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas arrived in Amman Monday on a visit to Jordan during which he will meet with senior Jordanian officials. He was received upon arrival by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ma'mun Al-Ahmed, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. A PLO official quoted by Reuters said the focus of Abbas' talks here would be the joint Jordan-PLO drive to collect more than \$450 million owned by Arab states to the joint Jordan-Palestinian committee to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. According to the official, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al-Qasem and Abbas will assess efforts to convince Arab states to pay overdue contributions to the committee. The meeting will be the first since two sides authorized on May 11 to collect missing aid for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Gulf states had pledged to give the \$450 million a year over 10 years when it was set up in 1978 at an Arab summit in Baghdad. Fund officials say its coffers are empty while Arab states have honoured less than half their commitment.

Jordan Times

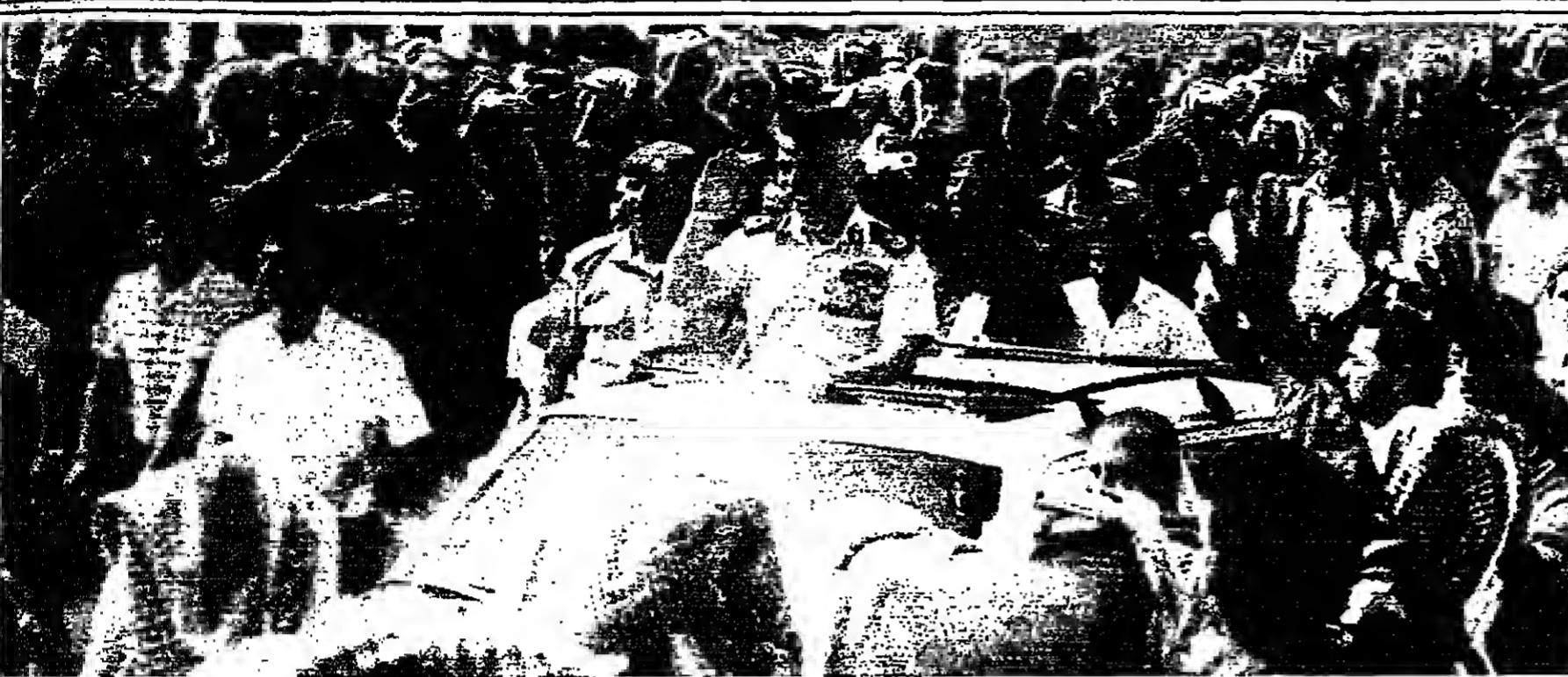
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His Majesty King Hussein Monday visits the Royal Police Academy (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

King pays tribute to PSD's role

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, said Monday the Public Security Department (PSD) was serving a considerable and noble purpose of maintaining law and security in the Kingdom so that every citizen may live in peace and in turn play his or her own role in the process of development and

in standing up to challenges that face the Kingdom.

Speaking during a visit he made to the Royal Police Academy Monday afternoon, King Hussein said despite the fact that the Kingdom supports and extends considerable help in providing equipment for the Public Security Department, "the human being remains the basis of nation building and his

or her success depends on dealing with people around while performing duties."

"The Jordanian Nation is a united and integrated family in which each individual has equal rights and equal duties," King Hussein said. "Each member of the Public Security Department

knows very well his/her duties for, as a member of the family he/she is entrusted with its

capabilities and modern achievements and has to reassess his contribution on a daily basis (in order to) develop that contribution in a way that would achieve the nation's aspirations," the King said.

PSD Director General Ahmad Hadi Al Majali, who also spoke on the occasion, said the PSD was committed to the implementation of the principles of

the Great Arab Revolt and to the continued development of the security forces in order to provide security for the nation.

The King also inspected a guard of honour and watched a military parade and inspected parts of the academy and its training grounds where he was shown the modern equipment utilised there.

Lebanese pin hopes on Oran meeting

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's besieged civilians, suffering acute shortage of fuel, bread, water and electricity, are pinning hopes for an end to their ordeal on Arab mediators meeting in Algeria this week.

Political sources predicted renewed fighting unless three heads of state due to meet Tuesday managed to end a 103-day blockade imposed by Syrian backed militia forces on an enclave controlled by army commander Michel Aoun in east and north Beirut.

The heads of state of Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Algeria are also seeking ways to strengthen a ceasefire mediated by the Arab League. May 11 between Syria and its allies and troops of Aoun.

Some sources were optimistic over prospects for the Oran meeting. Others said failure was inevitable because of the gulf between Syria and its allies and Aoun.

"If the Arabs fail in ending the blockades, the guns will be in action again. Diplomacy and military fortification are moving side by side," a political source said.

Aoun heads a military cabinet vying for power with a civilian administration led by Salim Al Hoss. Syria says Aoun must be overthrown before there can be peace.

Lebanese children are paying a high price for the intermittent factional violence in Beirut U.S. shift

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said in an interview broadcast Monday that Syria "has to back off" from Lebanon, marking an apparent American policy shift in the long-running Lebanese war.

"The Syrians have to back off," said Eagleburger in an interview with the Voice of Lebanon radio conducted by Aziz Raad, the station's Washington correspondent.

"All of the outside parties ought to back off and let the Lebanese make their own judgement about where their future

lies. There is too much foreign involvement on all sides," said Eagleburger in the taped interview.

Eagleburger's remarks reversed a statement he made before the American Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee March 16. He had said the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon would worsen the situation in the country because they impose restraint on the warring parties.

The Syrians have 40,000 troops deployed in Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate.

The interview was broadcast during shelling of the coastline

north of Beirut, maintaining a blockade of the Aoun enclave to prevent military supplies from reaching Aoun's forces.

Police said sporadic salvos of mortar fire hit around the port of Jounieh and Byblos.

Aoun's artillery retaliated with bowitzer fire on the seaside boulevard of west Beirut, where several Syrian batteries are deployed.

"We're obviously very hopeful that the Arab committee can, in fact, bring sense to the situation and can convince the Syrians to withdraw plus all those other foreign parties that have gotten themselves involved in the tragedy of Lebanon," said Eagleburger.

Baker made his appeal in iden-

tical letters to Hoss and Aoun.

Aides to both leaders said Baker's letter restated U.S. support for the Arab League efforts to end Lebanon's civil war.

Eagleburger also said the United States was "very hopeful" of efforts by the three-member Arab committee on Lebanon.

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3,500 flee ethnic violence in Kazakhstan

MOSCOW (R) — Around 3,500 people, mostly women, children and old people, have fled the Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan after ethnic violence in which five people have died, TASS news agency said Monday.

Some 10 days after the first clashes erupted between ethnic Kazakhs and immigrants from the nearby Transcaucasus, there was still fighting in several outlying towns and settlements around the city of Novy Uzen near the Caspian Sea, the agency said.

Calm returned to Novy Uzen but a curfew remained in force, helicopters circled overhead and the security forces manned roadblocks.

The Kazakh violence, which followed clashes in neighbouring Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, poses a serious problem for President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is already facing serious difficulties in his attempts to reform the Soviet economy.

More than 100 people have been killed and at least 1,500 injured this month during violence in all three of the republics in Central Asia, a vast and underdeveloped territory along the Soviet Union's southern flank.

"More than 3,500 people have left for the northern Caucasus, mostly women, children and elderly," TASS said. Most of their menfolk stayed behind. At least 3,000 of them were

flown to Dagestan, an autonomous republic which lies to the north of Azerbaijan in the northern Caucasus, with the remainder travelling to neighbouring areas.

The violence, the most serious since thousands of Kazakh youths went on the rampage in December 1986, was apparently triggered by complaints by local people that immigrants from Transcaucasia were enjoying a better standard of living.

TASS said the fifth and latest victim died of head and other injuries in a Novy Uzen hospital Sunday. Another 22 people were still receiving medical treatment.

Official newspapers said at

the weekend that the clashes, which broke out in Novy Uzen June 17-18, had spread to five other Kazakh towns near the Caspian Sea, with reports of more violence in the north and centre of the republic.

TASS said disorders were continuing Monday in the settlement of Yeralyevo, Kulsari and in Mangyshlak, where troops had to be flown in by helicopter to repulse an attack on a local police station by a mob armed with iron rods.

Peaceful meetings, involving what it described as limited numbers, were taking place in the cities of Fort Shevchenko, Zhertiby, Munayishi and Shetpe.

The unrest spread to Soviet

Georgia, where five people were reported wounded in a clash.

An editor of the official Georgian news agency, Gruzinform, said Monday in a telephone interview the five people were hurt in a confrontation between ethnic Georgians and ethnic Azerbaijanis.

The incident happened Sunday night in Marneuli and Bolnisi, Skid editor Zurab Lomidze said.

It was the second report of major unrest in Georgia this year. Twenty people were killed in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, in April — 19 people were killed when troops attacked a pro-democracy demonstration.

PEKING (Agencies) — A senior military officer said Monday that those shot while resisting the army's June 3-4 onslaught on Peking "got what they deserved."

Li Zhijun, one of the commanders of the military assault that ended almost seven weeks of pro-democracy student demonstrations, said he had "no regrets" about what Chinese and foreign witnesses have said was a massacre of unarmed residents and students.

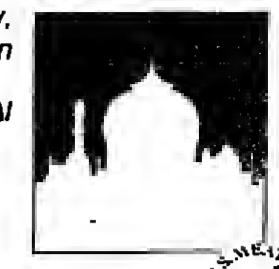
The official press also reported Monday the Communist Party was prepared to expel members who participated in the pro-democracy movement, suggesting a full-scale purge following Saturday's announcement that moderate party chief Zhao Ziyang had been ousted from all his party posts.

A Shanghai daily, seen Monday in Peking, also said 14 members of the "wild geese suicide squad" — young people who joined street protests in Shanghai following the crackdown in Peking — had received prison terms

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Shamir admits poll plan more of a publicity stunt

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday Israel's proposals for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were more public relations than substance.

He told a parliamentary committee: "The elections have more importance from a public relations point of view than in a practical sense."

Shamir appeared to reinforce the Arab belief that the initiative was aimed at ending the 18-month-old uprising in the occupied territories without conceding real political power to the Palestinians.

Those who will be elected will not be a parliament, but a group elected for a defined purpose, he told the committee.

"They will manage the life of the territories in the framework of autonomy within parameters that will be defined and later they will conduct negotiations with us on a settlement to the conflict."

Palestinian leaders have dismissed Shamir's proposal as a publicity gimmick meant to improve Israel's tarnished image in the West without conceding self-determination or occupied land to the Palestinians.

Settlers have killed about 20 Palestinians during the uprising, staging a growing number of armed raids on Arab villages to "avenge" stonethrowing attacks.

In another development, Israel Sunday called the kidnapping of U.S. aid worker Chris George genuine, backing away from accusations he staged his capture to help free Palestinians in Israeli jails.

George, 35-year-old American director of the Save the Children Federation for Palestinians in Israel, was set free on Sept. 27, pending results of an appeal to the supreme court recently by a group of left-wing Israelis convicted last year of violating the law.

EC summit opens; hard debate on single currency

MADRID (Agencies) — Britain Monday pledged at a European Community (EC) summit to accept the first stage of programme for economic union, but rejected sweeping plans for a single currency and central bank.

But West Germany, which had indicated a willingness to compromise, urged the leaders of the 12-nation community to endorse the entire programme.

Under the programme, member states would gradually hand over to the EC economic policy-making powers, a move British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher opposes as an infringement of national sovereignty. The first stage commits Britain in principle to linking the pound's value to the other major European currencies, a move Thatcher had long resisted.

The trade bloc is heading towards dropping all trade barriers and creating a single market in late 1992.

British officials said Thatcher told a closed-door summit meeting Monday that "we must stick to the practical and go for what

needs to be done now."

The officials quoted her as saying that she had serious difficulty with the tremendous shift of national sovereignty involved in later stages of the plan for monetary union in the 12-nation community.

"She thought we all recognised that decisions on these matters were simply not on the current agenda," one official told reporters.

But diplomats said her tough stance was couched in a moderate tone which suggested that a deal could be struck.

Later Sunday, a senior aide to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said his country, like Britain, was not ready for moving on automatically to the second and third stages. But Monday, Kohl pressed the leaders to accept the plan in its entirety, his spokesman, Hans Klein, reported.

As part of endorsing the first stage of the plan — which would begin in July 1990 — Thatcher pledged to link the pound to the other major EC currencies by joining the exchange rate

Assault commander has 'no regrets' over Peking carnage

of up to 13 years.

Also Monday, activists in Hong Kong said they had helped a key student leader and two other students escape from China.

A student activist in Hong Kong refused to divulge details of the escape of Wu'er Kaixi, a Peking Normal University student who chastised Zhao on nationwide television and gave fiery speeches that fuelled the democracy movement. The Hong Kong student said on condition of anonymity that he did not want to jeopardise future efforts to bring dissidents from China.

Intellectuals Yan Jiaqi and Wan Runnan were also smuggled to the west through Hong Kong, according to a diplomatic source in Hong Kong, who also said he believed Wu'er had left China. Wu'er's whereabouts were not divulged.

Li, speaking to foreign reporters invited to tour Tiananmen Square, stressed the government line that no shots were fired at students to clear the square.

"The whole process was non-violent. No one used guns," he said.

He acknowledged that some people "may have been wounded" as troops battled their way through resistance to reach the square, but said people had been warned to go out on the streets that night. He said those who joined the "thugs" had "low political consciousness."

The officer, said he had "no regrets" about casualties because "when our troops moved to the square we received persistent resistance. Individuals even used guns to kill our warriors. We were forced to defend ourselves. This group of people got what they deserved."

The government puts the death toll for the overnight assault at about 300, and says most of the dead were soldiers who were attacked by mobs. Chinese witnesses and Western intelligence reports say up to 3,000 people were shot to death or crushed by tanks as the military stormed the city.

Arab Gulf states face critical water shortage

By Patrick Werr
Reuter

KUWAIT — Arab Gulf states face a critical water shortage over the next decade that could shake their economies and leave them dependent on potentially vulnerable supplies. Western economists and diplomats say.

The sparsely populated states have used their oil wealth to build gleaming new cities and transform thousands of hectares of desert into lush irrigated farmland.

But Western geologists say the underground water that has made it possible is running out. Unless consumption is cut quickly, they say, up to a million hectares of Saudi grain and fodder fields could wither away entirely, perhaps as soon as the turn of the century.

"The implications for the country's current water and agricultural policies could be serious. The agricultural sector, as it exists, will die," said an internal report prepared by an embassy in Saudi Arabia.

The report, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, said governments in the Gulf will be forced to rely almost entirely on militarily vulnerable pipelines and desalination plants to quench

their citizens' thirsts.

Diplomats said the livelihood of thousands of Saudi bedouin farmers may be threatened.

The Saudi Ministry of Agriculture and Water had an immediate comment in the report.

On Bahrain, which shares a fresh-water aquifer with Saudi Arabia across the Gulf, officials say the water situation is alarming. They have already begun night-time rationing in some areas.

Kuwait, with few underground supplies of its own, recently agreed with Iraq to build a 160-kilometre pipeline to pump water from the Shatt Al Arab waterway within four years.

In Saudi Arabia, farmers are paid generous subsidies as part of a high-level campaign to build up a strategic food source independent of foreigners. Diplomats said the subsidies were also aimed at encouraging nomadic bedouins to settle on the land.

Agriculture has attracted heavy investment from wealthy merchants and royal family members.

A government support price of \$533 per tonne of wheat thrust Saudi Arabia last year into sixth place among wheat-exporting countries. Other subsidies made

it a net exporter of dairy products.

Now bedouins and merchants have become a powerful unofficial lobby that will oppose any conservation efforts, diplomats said.

The report said only around 12 per cent of all water used in Saudi Arabia last year came from replenishable underground or surface sources or from desalination plants.

The rest, around 18 billion cubic metres, was drawn from "fossil" reservoirs often millions of years old that are not being replenished. The vast bulk of all supplies went into agriculture.

The report quoted government sources as saying total primary fossil water reserves as of 1980 were 337.5 billion cubic metres. Another 160 billion might also be retrieved from harder-to-reach secondary aquifers.

Geologists said it was extremely unlikely that major new supplies would be found.

The report estimated that if consumption continued to grow at current rates, the kingdom's agriculture would run completely dry as soon as 1999. At best, it might last until 2006, it said.

Water tables in the Qassim, Kharj and Wadi Dawasir regions

are already approaching depths where pumping is no longer economic. Western geologists in the kingdom said.

Ideas to meet the shortfall have included piping Nile water in Sudan to the coast and shipping it across the Red Sea, building a pipeline from Turkey and even towing icebergs from Antarctica.

But because of political and technical problems, diplomats doubted that any of these would get off the ground soon.

Every day, 6.9 million cubic metres of desalinated water flow into Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which account for nearly 60 per cent of world production of desalinated water.

But one economist estimated the amount of desalinated water to irrigate a tonne of wheat would cost more than \$3,500.

Diplomats said it could be dangerous for Gulf countries to rely heavily on plants and pipelines vulnerable to sabotage.

Before the August ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, saboteurs allegedly linked to Iran planted explosives at a number of petrochemical and other facilities around the Gulf.



A NEW LOOK... Five Afghan Mujahedeen, in their new uniform, relax outside their exile government headquarters in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Rabin seeks speedy expulsions

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli legal scholar warned Monday against denying Palestinian activists judicial appeal before expelling them from the occupied West Bank and Gaza, saying it would prompt world demands for foreign supervision of the occupied territories.

Yoram Diastein, professor of international law at Tel Aviv University, condemned Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin for seeking to banish activists in seven days and sidesigned protracted appeals to the high court of justice.

Israel's justice ministry is reviewing the request.

"The only way to explain in international forums, to the government of the United States and in other places, that we reject international supervision is to say Israel respects the rule of law and has a high court and anyone may go to the high court who wants to," Diastein told Israel radio.

"If now we also close off the high court of justice, all that will happen is we will have international supervision."

Governments and human rights groups have assailed Israel's handling of the 18-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, decrying detentions, expulsions and house demolitions without trial.

Israel defends the measures, denying they violate international conventions and insisting they deter other would-be attackers.

At least 530 Palestinians have died in the uprising.

Rabin wants authority to speedily expel "inciters," tear down jail terms, and demolish houses before suspects can appeal to the high court. Banished Palestinians could return if they successfully appealed against their expulsions from abroad.

They're still far apart on the basic issues, but at least after nine months they know for the first time what each other really wants," said a Greek Cypriot analyst.

Justice Minister Dan Meridor, reviewing Rabin's request, said the army had issued 55 expulsion orders since the start of the uprising. Officials say 47 were carried out.

Meridor said close to 300 houses had been destroyed or sealed to punish suspected militants.

Sensitive to world criticism, Meridor is likely to try to dissuade Rabin when they meet later this month, justice ministry staff have said.

But interviewed by army radio Monday, Meridor declined to say how the ministry would rule when it issues an opinion in a few days.

"The main problem is military and not judicial," he said, adding: "I don't want to engage in speculation."

A statement issued by left-wing legislator Yossi Sarid said Rabin's Labour Party had reached a truce when the defence minister had to be restrained by Meridor, of the right-wing Likud party.

Rabin warned

The Israeli interior ministry has warned Reuters chief correspondent Paul Taylor that his visa would be revoked without further notice if Reuters violated military censorship in the coming year.

It was the first time Israel has publicly threatened to expel a foreign correspondent since the start of the Palestinian uprising.

David Efrati, the director of the department responsible for work permits and residence visas, summoned Taylor to tell him the military censor had informed him that Reuters had committed two violations of censorship in recent months.

Efrati told Taylor that the warning may be publicised as a deterrent to other foreign correspondents. The interior ministry later reported the warning in a statement.

Iran plans 'peaceful' nuclear programme

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Prime Minister Hussein Musavi said Sunday that Iran plans to build nuclear reactors "for peaceful purposes" with technological help from foreign powers, Iran's official news agency reported.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, noted that Hans Blix, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said the Vienna-based organisation was ready to cooperate with Iran to establish the reactors for peaceful purposes.

Musavi said that the foreign countries had given "positive and promising responses" to requests for technological assistance.

He did not name the countries. But Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani secured Soviet cooperation on nuclear energy during his ground-breaking visit to Moscow last week.

Iran has also signed agreements in recent months with Hungary and Bulgaria for a nuclear reactor, nuclear plant equipment and technical assistance, Tehran's media bave reported.

The Iranians desperately need to expand their power-generating capabilities, badly damaged in the war with Iraq. But they are also concerned about Iraq's to develop its nuclear capabilities.

The Iraqi programme is more advanced than Iran's, despite the destruction of a French-built reactor near Baghdad in a long-range Israeli air strike in June 1981.

The Iraqis are reportedly aided by the Soviet Union and France,

their main arms suppliers during the war. France has denied involvement in the Iraqi nuclear programme.

The nuclear efforts by the Gulf war enemies, along with Israel's nuclear military capability and Libya's quest to achieve a similar status, has stirred fears of a nuclear arms race in the region.

While no Arab power is yet known to be able to match Israel's nuclear capability, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Saudi Arabia have built up long-range missile arsenals.

Blix, who arrived in Tehran last Wednesday for a week-long visit, met Musavi and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Sunday.

The Iranian officials Sunday stressed the need for nuclear reactors for energy purposes.

Velayati branded the Israelis "the real danger for the region" because they refuse to allow Blix's agency to inspect their atomic plant at Dimona.

Blix has also held talks with Reza Amrohali, director of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, and other officials.

Musavi did not say how many plants the Iranians will build. But Iran has been trying for some time to revive a nuclear programme it launched by the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

The monarch's ambitious programme envisaged 20 nuclear power plants as well as a research programme to make Iran a nuclear military power.

The programme was halted when the Shah was toppled in the 1979 revolution, but Tehran later tried to revive it during the war.

Cypriot leaders to meet U.N. chief

NICOSIA (R) — The leaders of the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities are expected to agree on more talks but little else when they meet the U.N. secretary-general this week in their latest bid to reunite divided Cyprus.

Greek Cypriot President George Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash will be reviewing a third round of talks aimed at uniting the island in a bi-communal federation.

But analysts said Monday that after nine months of intensive talks both sides remained far apart with no virtually no chance of an agreement being signed at the New York talks.

"They're still far apart on the basic issues, but at least after nine months they know for the first time what each other really wants," said a Greek Cypriot analyst.

Earlier this month U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar said the "contours of an overall agreement" were discernible.

But the confidential talks have often appeared to be on the point of collapse with mutual accusations of bad faith compounded by strident press coverage.

The New York meetings Wednesday and Thursday come on the heels of a fierce dispute over an offer made by Denktash to settle ethnic Turkish refugees from Bulgaria in north Cyprus.

Turkey defused the row by saying it was not planning to send the Bulgarian refugees to the breakaway state.

A Western diplomat said the plight of Bulgarian Turks had reached a low ebb when the defence minister had to be restrained by Meridor, in advance of the talks.

"They are comparing their minority position before Cyprus was divided to that of the Bulgarian Turks," he said.

Outraged Greek Cypriots said that Denktash made the effort to sabotage the talks.

There has been heated dispute in the Greek and Turkish Cypriot press that Perez de Cuellar might present a draft outline agreement for discussion in New York.

Greek Cypriots insist on a strong central government with separate Greek and Turkish Cypriot municipal authorities and the right to live, own property and travel anywhere on the island.

The Turkish Cypriots want virtual autonomy in a bi-zonal division of the island and a Turkish military presence to protect their 120,000-strong community.

They also demand the withdrawal of 29,000 Turkish troops from north Cyprus.

Surgeons try to promote peace through medicine

DAMASCUS (R) — A team of U.S. surgeons is trying to promote peace in the Middle East by building bridges through delicate surgery on victims of regional conflicts.

The Physicians for Peace team was founded by American surgeon Charles Horton three years ago to work voluntarily in areas torn by strife.

Among the team's patients are Lebanese wounded in the artillery battles that raged in Beirut and Palestinians caught up in the violence sweeping the Israeli-occupied territories.

Horton, an Eastern Virginia Medical School plastic surgeon, said he had succeeded in getting doctors from countries with longstanding differences to talk to one another.

He said Greek and Turkish doctors who met in Athens in September 1988 agreed to hold regular meetings in both countries' capitals.

The American surgeon said his team had led to Israeli doctors working for the first time in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town

of Ramallah on Palestinians wounded during the intifada.

Israeli doctors had previously treated wounded Palestinians almost daily, but in Israeli hospitals.

"Physicians for Peace was formed to demonstrate that a common bond of decency, love and caring binds us all," said Horton.

Another member of his team said: "By bringing together surgeons from countries which have conflicts, people can... be good friends despite political conflicts between their countries."

It said that some of them had also been charged with smuggling arms and committing "unvirtuous acts," a euphemism for prostitution.

Iranian authorities gave the country's estimated two million addicts six months to reform when a harsh new anti-narcotics law took effect in January. That deadline expires next month.

The law mandates the death penalty for anyone found with even a small amount of drugs.

The radio said that those executed Sunday had been convicted by Islamic courts.

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Two hundred addicts serving

National News

1st batch of women soldiers graduates

AMMAN (Petra) — The first batch of Jordanian women to be graduated in the Armed Forces, graduated here Monday following a training course in the use of light arms and target shooting.

The commander of the armed forces unit in charge of the training course made a speech at the graduating ceremony, outlining the training programmes for the graduates who, he said, will share with their fellow soldiers the duty of defending the homeland.

Later Princess 'Ayshe distributed awards to the graduates.

One of the graduates made a

speech expressing deep faith in the role of Jordanian women in shouldering military duties side by side with men.

The graduates later presented a performance of their various skills at the ceremony which was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess 'Ayshe Bint Al Hussein, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Al Ali and senior army officers and relatives of the graduates.

Later Princess 'Ayshe distributed awards to the graduates.

Tawjih exams end

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education Monday announced the end of the second session of the Tawjih examination taken by some 58,600 students who completed their secondary stage education at Jordanian schools.

The students, who sat for the exam in 767 examination halls supervised by the Ministry of Education, were of the literary, scientific, nursing, commercial,

agricultural, industrial and hotel management streams.

A spokesman for the ministry said that the process of marking papers will be completed in the coming ten days and that 3,400 teachers will be involved in the process, working in 13 different centres in the capital.

He said that everything will be done to make the results ready as soon as possible.

RJ flies 23,680 people in 2nd week of June

AMMAN (Petra) — A statement by Royal Jordanian (RJ) issued Monday said that its aircraft flew 23,680 passengers to various destinations in the second week of June compared to 22,525 passengers transported in the same period of 1988.

RJ aircraft also shipped 1,008 tonnes of goods and other products in the same week compared to 1,861 tonnes in the second week of June 1988, according to the statement.

It said that the four-day meeting, which was attended by IATA member states, discussed matters related to easing the process of handling and transporting passenger luggage.

SOS regional office established in Amman

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — An agreement was signed here Monday paving the way for the establishment of a regional office in Amman by the SOS Kinderdorf international children's villages organisation.

According to the agreement, the projected office will provide services, assistance, and help fund the establishment and management of SOS Villages and their associated projects in Jordan, the West Bank, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Cyprus, Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

The organisation, which was founded in 1960 in Austria by Hermann Gmeiner, aims to coordinate the worldwide work of SOS children's villages youth houses and other SOS facilities, to preserve the SOS idea as it was realised for the first time in Austria, to further the establishment of new SOS villages throughout the world and to promote understanding between peoples and individuals, according to a statement issued here following the conclusion of the agreement, which was signed by Health and Social Development Minister Zuhair Malhas and SOS Children's Village Director in Amman Wolfgang Krug Vonmida.

OFFICERS GRADUATE: Deputising for the Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, assistant chief of staff for administration Sunday graduated two batches of field officers, who have completed two training courses held at the Royal Military College. Addressing the graduation ceremony, the Armed Forces said that the best of the nation's men are those who carry their weapon to defend the territories, safeguard the homeland and the holy shrine. At the end of the ceremony, the assistant chief of staff presented awards to the excelling officers. The ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Theouqan Hindawi and a number of army officers. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by Jordanian and Arab artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- * An art exhibition entitled "Study in Line and Colour" by Dodi Tabaa at the Petra Bank Art Gallery.
- * An exhibition entitled "French Jazz Nowdays" in which several videos will be shown at the French Cultural Centre.
- * A photo exhibition which includes photos depicting the great role played by the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt at the Palace of Culture, Al Hussein Youth City.
- * A photo exhibition by August Sander at the Goethe Institute.
- * An art exhibition by three Arab artists representing Bahrain, Syria and Jordan at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- * An art exhibition entitled "Songs of the Earth" by Mohammad Nasrallah at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of stamps from the Arab Cooperation Council countries at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of Soviet stamp collection at the Yarmouk University.
- * The second annual exhibition of works by students from the Ministry of Social Development schools and centres at the Professional Associations Complex.

FILM

- * A video featuring songs by Roy Orbison and Friends at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

HOUSING FINANCE



Arab children's congress begins

AMMAN (Petra) — The ninth children's congress started here Monday with the participation of 60 boys and girls from 15 Arab countries, under the emblem of "towards a better cultural future for the Arab child."

The annual congress, organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), aims at strengthening the bonds among the Arab children, offering them a chance to see the various aspects of the Jordanian life and the responsibilities that the country faces in the child and in adopting its statute."

The congress was opened by Their Royal Highness Prince Faisal and Princess Ali, on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The director general of the NHF, Mrs. Inaam Al Mufti, delivered a speech, in which she conveyed Queen Noor's regards to the participants. She said that this congress, through its programmes, gives the children a chance to visit the cultural and

historical places, as well as the developmental institutions that reflect Jordan's ability to grow and develop in all aspects.

She added that this year's logo

is the same one raised by the United Nations, where discussions will be held on the statute of international children's rights.

She pointed out that the Arab nation and its governments adopted the subject of the statute of international children's rights.

"We, as an Arab nation, are leading the world in caring for the child and in adopting its statute."

Mufti said the next congress will include the 500 children who participated in the earlier congresses. During the tenth congress, an association for these children will be established.

A Jordanian child informed a speech, stressing the importance of Arab relations and the necessity to discuss the problems of the participating children, as they are the future leaders.

The opening ceremony included a number of musical performances presented by the National Music Conservatory, also affiliated to the NHF, and a national folklore performance entitled, "A Jordanian Wedding."

Attending the ceremony were Arab ambassadors to Jordan, the employees at the NHF and a number of invited guests.

Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal and Princess Ali and Noor Al Hussein Foundation Director-General Inaam Al Mufti welcome some of the



participants in the Arab children's congress which opened in Amman Monday (Petra photo)

Great Arab Revolt camp concludes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 63 youths from Jordan and other Arab countries have concluded a six-day camp in the southern parts of Jordan during which they carried out voluntary work and conducted a variety of activities as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of the Great Arab Revolt.

According to the SOS office here, work is underway to set up a vocational training centre at the SOS village in Amman, a branch SOS village in Aqaba and a kindergarten for the Aqaba branch.

The Amman village is the 14th of its kind in the Arab World.

volts, have greatly increased our pride in our Arab Nation," the participants said in their cable to the King.

They said that the fact that youths from different Arab states have come together and worked together in a cooperative and team spirit must be a source of deep satisfaction for the organisers and the Arab youth alike.

The participants were among the groups of youth taking part in a public festival held at the Palace of Culture Saturday and attended by His Majesty King Hussein.

On their last day the participants visited Aqaba, toured its port and other industrial installations and were briefed on the commercial, industrial and touristic activities in the port city.

The participants, who included 33 Jordanians picked from various clubs and youth centres in the Kingdom, in addition to 30 participants from Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen, Oman and

Bahrain took part in a variety of sports events, carried out voluntary services at Al Afra and Eiss ancient sites, listened to lectures on the Great Arab Revolt, organised recreational and cultural programmes and toured a number of archaeological sites and a plant for processing animal feed.

Badran said at a meeting at the slaughter house that the Ministry of Agriculture was currently preparing a series of informational and media programmes designed to encourage local consumers to buy more of Jordanian farm and dairy products.

The Ministry of Agriculture gave due care to the question of fodder and will do all it can to help stockbreeders to get their requirements at a reasonable cost so that the farmers can make a reasonable margin of profits," Badran noted.

The minister toured the slaughter house and was told that it has



Arab specialists discuss regional integration

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A group of specialists in political and strategic affairs Monday discussed at the University of Jordan the question of regional integration within the Arab World. The seminar, organised by the Arab Society for Political Science, discussed experiments in economic integration within the Arab World and the role of regional organisations in the integration process. University Vice President Mahmoud Al Samra, who

opened the meeting, referred to the role of the University of Jordan in backing the efforts of all societies and institutions involved in economic matters and in spreading awareness, with regards to the importance of integration in the Arab World. Samra also reviewed the university's efforts in promoting research conducted by its own staff and the seminars and conferences it helped to organise to promote socio-economic development.

Conference on financing housing projects opens

Housing is top priority for advanced, developing nations — Prince Hassan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from Jordan and eight Arab and foreign countries Monday embarked on a four-day regional conference to discuss matters related to financing housing projects.

The Housing Bank, which is co-sponsoring the conference in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is submitting a working paper outlining its own experiment in financing housing schemes in Jordan and the bank's future plans for development.

An address to the opening session by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan outlined housing issues, particularly Jordanian efforts to provide housing for people from limited income groups.

The speech, delivered on Prince Hassan's behalf by director-general of the Housing Bank Zuhair Khouri, said that a home for a family is one of the most essential elements for social and economic stability, and lies at the foundation of a society's social and political security.

The question of housing is at the top of the list of priorities for governments in advanced and developing nations alike, in view of the ever-growing population and the decline in financial resources needed for housing schemes, the Prince said in his address to the conference.

"For its part, Jordan has been giving due concern to the housing problem in the course of im-

plementing its socio-economic development schemes," the Prince noted.

He said that Jordan is bound to deal with the question in view of

on-going development in social and economic sectors and as a result of the influx of Palestinians driven out of their homeland by the Israeli occupation forces.

He said that Jordan's housing policy is based on close cooperation between the public and private sector; and the government has been providing incentives and facilities for the private sector to build more homes.

Nearly 70 per cent of all homes were executed by the private sector organisations or private individuals in Jordan, the Crown Prince noted.

The Ministry of Housing has now worked out an integrated national housing strategy covering the period 1985 to 2005, with special emphasis on meeting the needs of limited income groups, the Crown Prince added.

A national strategic study revealed last October in Amman, said that the need for housing units for limited income groups is expected to grow in the coming two decades and that no less than 430,000 units are needed to meet the country's housing requirements.

Delegates attending the sessions came from Tunisia, Morocco, Oman, North Yemen, Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, Portugal and Jordan.

pilgrims from occupied Palestine and Gaza Strip arrived in Ghor Al Nimeen Sunday, en route to Saudi Arabia where they will be performing their annual pilgrimage.

One of the pilgrims thanked King Hussein for allowing them to perform the pilgrimage following a period of more than 20 years when they were denied to perform pilgrimage. He also called on Khayyat and Khrisha to convey the greetings of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Khayyat informed the pilgrims at a special ceremony that the ministry has made all the necessary facilities to ensure their comfort.

He also called on them to remind the Muslim pilgrims of the usurped land and Al Aqsa Mosque, and to stress the need of

Meanwhile the first batch of

Medical team leaves for S. Arabia

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A medical team from the Ministry of Health left Amman for Saudi Arabia Monday to take charge of providing medical services to the Jordanian pilgrims in Mecca and Medina.

Health Minister Zuhair Malhas who saw off the mission told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the 42-member team has been provided with various medical equipment and medicines to offer medical help to the pilgrims through a mobile clinic that would be moving to accompany the pilgrims in the course of performing pilgrimage rites in Mecca, Medina and Arqa.

The minister noted that the Jordanian medical mission would also provide a medical assistance to non-Jordanian pilgrims whenever this is needed.

Meanwhile the first batch of

a capacity of banding 4,000 hinds an hour, and that the cold storage capacity nearby can store up to 30 tonnes of fresh poultry meat and 75 tonnes of frozen poultry meat.

At the Cattle Breeders Coop-

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CABLE TO DJIBOUTI: His Majesty King Hussein has cabled President of Djibouti Hassan Gouled Aptidon on the anniversary of Djibouti's National Day. In his cable, the King wished the Djibouti president good health and the people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the decision of the judicial council related to transferring and appointing 87 judges who work at Islamic courts in Jordan. (Petra)

JORDANIAN CLUBS IN EGYPT: The Ministry of Youth has presented JD 3,000 in aid to the six Jordanian youth clubs in Egypt. These clubs help link Jordanian youths with their homeland by familiarising them with various Jordanian publications and holding celebrations marking national anniversaries. (Petra)

EXHIBITION: Minister of Health and Social Development Zuhair Malhas Monday opened the second annual exhibition of the Ministry of Social Development schools and centres at the Professional Associations Complex. The two-day exhibition includes students' works such as knitwear, weaving, dress-making, woodwork, iron-work and bookbinding. Later, the minister distributed diplomas to 55 graduates from these schools and presented their sports teams with cups and medals. (Petra)

NEW DOCTORS: The Ministry of Health has decided to allow 85 doctors to practice medicine in a number of medical establishments in the private and public sectors. This falls within the framework of the efforts designed to employ the largest number of graduate doctors. (Petra)

KEILANI INSPECTS WATER TOWERS: Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Keilani Monday inspected water towers and pumping stations within Greater Amman and was briefed on water rationing plans and the people's complaints. Keilani also called on technicians and engineers to ensure supply of water to citizens as planned. The minister was accompanied by Water Authority Secretary General Mu'taz Bilbeisi and a number of officials. (Petra)

ART EXHIBITION: Ministry of Culture and Information Secretary General Dr. Hanan Amad has opened an art exhibition by Salim Mustafa, Abdul Hadi Mahayri, and Khaled Tahmazi who are from Jordan, Syria, and Bahrain respectively. The three-week exhibition includes forty pieces of work depicting the Great Arab Revolt, Damascus dress styles and nature as well as various pan-Arab issues including the intifada. (Petra)

PEOPLE'S ARMY: New batches of People's Army recruits have graduated in Irbid and the districts of Jerash and Ajloun. (Petra)

DRUG SENTENCE: The military court has sentenced Hussein Abdulla Walid Majed to two years imprisonment and the payment of JD 1,500 for possession of hashish. (Petra)



Mothers' favourites

By Clare Rayner

ONE of the great myths about motherhood (and heaven knows there are plenty!) is that all mothers love all their children equally. To suggest for one moment that any mother dreams of feeling more tenderness for one child in her family than she does for another would be regarded by many as the most awful of insults.

But, in fact, it's very rare indeed for there not to be family favourites. In may not always be the same child who bask in maternal approval in some families it's always the eldest, in others it's always the youngest or the son or the daughter and in the vast majority it's all of the children at different stages and times and for different reasons.

Just why is it that mothers do find they have sneaking preferences for one or other of their children? How can any woman find she has more love for one than another?

Actual liking

It becomes easier to deal with this question if you exchange the word "love" for "like."

Many mothers find that they love all their children fiercely all the time, but when it comes to actual liking — ah, that's another thing entirely.

After all, each child may arrive with matching parents, but they certainly don't have matching personalities. Even identical twins can be different in nature. And if a child's personality happens to clash with his or her

mother's then it's inevitable that liking will waver, however staunch love may be.

But there are other reasons why mothers have favourites.

If the actual process of giving birth is prolonged, painful and alarming, it's very possible for the mother to find she's unable to bond as firmly to her child as she might. Then, as the later years pass into a lifetime, the mother finds that she never does manage to feel as close to this child as she does to another who was born after a much less distressing time.

The opposite can happen of course: sometimes a mother who's been through hell on a hike to give birth feels closer to the result of her efforts than she would have if the birth had been a much easier one.

Position in the family can have a major effect on a mother's feelings for her children. There are some who always have the softest spot for their first-born. This is the child with whom she spends the most time. When later babies arrive, they may seem to come between her and her beloved first, and although in many cases this sense of the specialness fades, in others it lingers on and on.

In some mothers, however, the special passion is saved for babies rather than growing children. This means that the favourite child is always the youngest. As soon as a new arrives to absorb her, somehow the older ones lose some of their fascination.

She may feel it's the baby who needs most attention, and the older children are being "diffi-

cult" and "naughty" when they react (accurately!) to what they feel is her favouritism.

One of the most acceptable forms of favouritism is aimed at the less able or less well child. When one child in a family is ailing or under-endowed in some way, his mother's protectiveness can tip over into obvious favouritism.

Just as likely, however, is dislike of the ailing child because of the added burden and sadness he or she creates, with favouritism felt for the bonny well one.

Mothers who feel like this are often made to feel dreadfully guilty, yet why should they? it's a very natural, very human reaction. It will come as no news to many that some mothers prefer sons to daughters and vice versa.

The first step in dealing with problems linked with feelings of favouritism is to be honest. You need to sit down and assess your emotions.

If you can identify favouritism, the next step is to forgive yourself. It is, believe me, no sin. It's not abnormal. It's not an indication of some deep psychological upset in the family, nor does it mean the future for child will be irreversibly marred. It merely means you are human and normal.

Once you have recognised the feelings exist and forgiven yourself for having them, it all becomes very easy. Dispensing impartial justice between all the children becomes the most natural thing in the world. It's when one is twisted by hidden emotion that it becomes hard to be what mothers have to try to be: all things to all their children, all the time — *Kuwait Times*.

word go that he or she is the spitting image of that grandfather, liking the child will be hard indeed for her. If, on the other hand, a baby turns up looking so much like mum's own adored auntie Mary that she could be the aunt's reincarnation, then favouritism for that child becomes almost inevitable.

And, of course, if the marriage breaks up and one of the children looks and behaves like the departed — and perhaps hated — spouse, the effect on a mother's attitude to the child will be obvious. Sadly, these feelings often occur and are a very difficult truth for an already bruised and heart-battered woman to admit to herself.

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Liberty...

(continued from page 4)

with political systems which adhere scrupulously to the rule of law and constitutionally protect and enforce freedom of expression are ranked as one. A rank of two describes political systems with similar aspirations as above but unable to achieve these standards, because of internal strife and violence, ignorance or limited channels of the media, or because order is maintained by laws more restrictive than thought necessary. A rank of three is accorded to political systems with the appearance of civil liberty but that experience unsolvable political deadlocks, and resort to martial law, jailing for sedition and suppression of the media. Such governments, however, can be successfully opposed in the courts. In political systems ranked as four, broad areas of freedom coexist with areas in which rights are proscribed or circumscribed. In regimes ranked as five, civil rights are denied arbitrarily and the media is controlled and censored by the state. In countries ranked six, the rights of the state take precedence over the rights of the individual, although the occasional complaint, if politic, is permitted. A rank of seven is bestowed on regimes in which citizens have no rights relative to the state.

Gastil measures economic liberty in two ways. He categorises economic systems as capita-

African anti-tsetse techniques

AFRICAN COUNTRIES have been in the vanguard of pioneering efforts to control one of the continent's most dangerous insects. The tsetse fly not only infects cattle with a deadly disease, but also carries parasites which cause sleeping sickness in humans.

Effective action against this lethal pest had been stalled by the realisation that the main attack weapon — ground or air spraying with DDT-based insecticides — had serious environmental side-effects. So much so that the European Community, which sponsors tsetse control projects in Africa, banned the use of these chemicals in development funds (EDF) for the Third World, and set up an environmental monitoring group to ensure that other

spraying techniques caused no lasting damage.

If this seemed like a reprieve for African tsetse flies it was short-lived. Zimbabwe was soon among the leaders in developing a control method which is now enjoying wide application both in Zimbabwe and Zambia, and also carries parasites which cause sleeping sickness in humans.

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But this is only one of a number of combat measures being pioneered in such countries as Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and the Gambia — *Lion feature*.

Publishers in the United States and Britain this spring brought out a translation of his most celebrated novel, "I served the king of England."

The author of "Closely observed trains," which was made into an Oscar-winning film by Jiri Menzel, has mixed humour and tragedy, modernism and down-to-earth story telling in his works.

He began writing at the end of World War II, but his books went unpublished in Czechoslovakia during the Stalinist fifties and for 20 years Hrabal showed his manuscripts only to friends.

A lawyer by education, he worked as a brewery worker, railwayman, insurance agent, travelling salesman, foundry worker, waste-paper packer and stagehand before emerging as a

CONCORD Tel: 677420

ONCE BITTEN

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

PIJOUX Tel: 675571

NO SAVE HAVEN

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

PLAZA Tel: 677420

WEEKEND BASS

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

'The Lady with the Lamp' — not just any lady

By Maggie Jackson
The Associated Press

LONDON — For those with only faded schoolbook recollections of "The Lady with the Lamp," the Florence Nightingale museum has an epic tale to tell.

Opened three months ago, it recounts, often in her own words, how a coddled girl shrewdly defied her parents for a career in which she laid the foundations of modern nursing and instituted public health reforms that changed hospitals worldwide.

Kate Prinsley, curator of the world's first museum of Nightingale, admits she underestimated the pioneer of medical hygiene.

"I always thought she was very dull, a surpising Victorian," says Ms. Prinsley, whose forte was museums, not medicine. "I had no idea that she was, I think, a very shrewd woman, a real operator. I had no idea she was quite so tough."

Nightingale's work in statistics still amazes bureaucrats. She became an expert on India without ever going there. She wrote 200 books and major papers, and kept working into her

from an early age. But nice girls did not become nurses in those days. The profession was considered disreputable. Her parents refused to let her take it up, and she studied nursing in secret.

"Trust me, help me... give me your blessing," she pleaded in a letter to her family. They did not reply.

But until she was 33 did she get a real nursing job, as administrator of a small London hospital called the Institution for the Care of Sick Gentlewomen in Distressed Circumstances.

Nightingale reorganised it so thoroughly that when word of the horrendous conditions at the Crimean warfront reached England, she was asked to lead a nursing expedition.

"Not a sponge, nor a rag of linen, not anything have I left," she wrote in 1854 soon after her arrival at the Dard Barrack hos-

pital in Scutari, Turkey.

But within a month she had organised proper kitchens, repaired many of the 6 kilometres of wards, ordered soap and a screen for operations because, she said, when a soldier due for an amputation "sees his comrade die today under the knife, it diminishes his chances."

The museum recreates the scene.

Florence Nightingale came home two years later in poor health but a national heroine. Poems and songs were written for her and 44,000 pounds — equivalent to \$1.5 million today — raised for what would become the Nightingale School of Nursing.

She shunned publicity, and spent most of the rest of her life as a recluse, bedridden for many years. She never married, having turned down the man she loved for the sake of her calling.

But from her home Nightingale

barraged the government with proposals for hospital reform, for helping the sick and poor and for the army. She calculated that more soldiers died in peacetime from poor hygiene than in war, and urged such revolutionary innovations as ventilation, clean linen, and plants to lift patients' spirits.

Her 1859 "notes on hospitals" begins: "It may seem a strange principle to emanate as the very first requirement in a hospital that it should do the sick no harm. It is quite necessary nevertheless to lay down such a principle."

In fact, says Ms. Prinsley, Florence Nightingale's work was so precise and detailed that health researchers still study it.

The museum also operates as a research centre and a trust which awards grants to nurses in Britain and abroad.



Bohumil Hrabal — timid hero of Czechoslovak literature

By Michael Zantovsky
Reuter

fully-fledged writer in the liberal sixties.

After the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 he found himself a banned author again.

Like many of his colleagues he later publicly recanted his alleged political sins and his books reappeared in print. Unlike most of them he never recanted in his work and continued writing his tragicomic tales of beer drinkers, dissident writers and Communist authorities alike, in a country where literature has been divided along political lines for 40 years.

The reclusive 75-year-old has managed to preserve an independent voice while shunning controversy and confrontation.

Whatever their other differences, dissident playwright Vaclav Havel, emigre authors Milan Kundera and Josef Skvorecky and the state-controlled writers union are united in their praise of Hrabal, who was awarded the title of artist of merit by the Communist authorities on his last birthday.

Publishers in the United States and Britain this spring brought out a translation of his most celebrated novel, "I served the king of England."

The author of "Closely observed trains," which was made into an Oscar-winning film by Jiri Menzel, has mixed humour and tragedy, modernism and down-to-earth story telling in his works.

He began writing at the end of World War II, but his books went unpublished in Czechoslovakia during the Stalinist fifties and for 20 years Hrabal showed his manuscripts only to friends.

A lawyer by education, he worked as a brewery worker, railwayman, insurance agent, travelling salesman, foundry worker, waste-paper packer and stagehand before emerging as a

He said Havel personified two heroes: Socrates, who was offered emigration but chose to stay and die by Hemlock, and Prometheus, who stole fire from the Gods.

"He is a hero of his time," Hrabal said in the interview at a pub where he is a regular customer.

Unlike Havel, Hrabal seeks to avoid confrontation with the authorities but is sometimes hard put to hide from publicity.

"If I were to receive some award for literature and had any integrity... I would at least have to burn the citation," he wrote in "The magic flute."



Unveiling record budget deficit

Sudan's finance minister warns of widespread corruption, hyperinflation

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan unveiled a record budget deficit and warned of possible unrest amid widespread embezzlement, corruption and hyperinflation.

Finance Minister Omar Nour Al Dayem told parliament Sunday night that corruption and embezzlement, "have grown to pose a danger to our values, society and financial and economic conditions."

"In the absence of decisive measures, the (economic) situation can make Sudan plunge into hyperinflation ... (which) poses a threat to security and social peace," he added. He said inflation was now running at an annual rate of more than 80 per

cent.

Speaking after street protests against food shortages and a government announcement that it failed a coup plot last week, Dayem said the budget deficit for the year beginning July 1 was likely to be 13.2 billion pounds (\$2.93 billion).

Foreign assistance was expected to cover 5.6 billion pounds (\$1.24 billion) of the shortfall, leaving 7.6 billion (\$1.68 billion) to be found — nearly twice this year's anticipated figure.

Dayem said Sudan's 25 million people, most of whom already struggle to make ends meet, should consume less water, electricity and fuel. He announced several measures to cut spending and improve tax-collection.

"A (budget) deficit of this size is unprecedented in the history of Sudan," Dayem said. "If no real financing sources are found, there will be no other way left but to borrow from the Bank of Sudan (the central bank)."

This would raise the amount owed by the government to the bank to 23.6 billion pounds (\$5.24 billion).

Central bank lending effectively means printing money, which is inflationary.

Dayem said steps were being taken to curb what he called the horrifying rise in money supply. He did not elaborate.

The government said on June 18 that it foiled a coup plot to return former president Jaafar Numeiri to power.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said after the coup plot was announced on June 18 that economic hardships had played a part in at least four plots against his rule. He blamed Numeiri's 16 years in power for Sudan's problems.

Sudan has been fighting rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army since 1983.

The war takes 25 per cent of total government spending and



Omar Nour Al Dayem

has contributed to famine in the south. An estimated 250,000 people died there last year, mainly because of the famine, and more than two million southerners have become refugees elsewhere in the country.

Dayem said Sudan's foreign debt was \$12 billion, at least \$2 billion below estimates by foreign economists in Khartoum.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Majnoon oil reserves total 30b barrels

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi said Sunday that the Majnoon islands in southern Iraq have proven reserves of 30 billion barrels of oil. Chalabi said a huge oilfield 60 kilometres long covers a large area of the Huwaizah marshes. "That is a giant field which has a very shallow depth," he said. Chalabi said the field also has natural gas deposits, but gave no figure for its estimated reserves. Iran captured much of the chain of islands northeast of southern port city of Basra in February 1984. But the Iraqis retook them in June last year. Chalabi denied Iran's claims that it produced oil from the Iraqi wells while its forces occupied the islands. He said the wells were tightly capped before the Iraqis withdrew, making it impossible for the Iranians to use them. Chalabi has said Iraq's known oil reserves total 100 billion barrels, making them the second biggest in the world after Saudi Arabia.

Tunisian state banks merge

TUNIS (R) — Two state-controlled government banks, the Banque Nationale De Tunisie and the Banque Nationale De Developpement Agricole, have merged to form the Banque Nationale Agricole (BNA). The merger took effect Saturday when the board of management of the new bank met under Planning and Finance Minister Mohammad Ghannouchi. The cabinet approved the merger earlier this year to streamline credits to agriculture, previously handled by both banks. The previous chairman of the Banque Nationale De Developpement Agricole, Habib Balhaj Said, is the managing director of the new bank, which has a capital of 33 million dinars (\$33.8 million).

MEES reports Syrian 'oil mistake'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Output at a large oilfield in northwest Syria has dropped precipitously because it was producing well above its technical capacity, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday. Production at the Omar field run by Al Sarraf Petroleum Company fell from 100,000 barrels per day (b/d) last March to 31,000 b/d, the respected weekly said. The Syrian government, which suffers from acute foreign exchange shortages, demanded that production from the new field be pushed to 100,000 barrels a day by March 1, several months ahead of schedule.

Despite objections from technicians, the level was sustained through March and part of April. Reservoir pressure dropped significantly and the field's output declined, MEES said. The operators are trying to mend the problem by drilling four development wells, making a 3-D seismic survey and studying a water injection scheme. Production at the 100,000 b/d rate is to be restored by late 1990 or early 1991, MEES said.

Japan weighs spot rice exchange

TOKYO (AP) — Japan is considering establishing a rice trading exchange to introduce greater competition into its government-controlled rice market. The Asahi Shimbun, quoting unidentified government sources, said the proposed exchange would allow spot transactions in rice, which would be sold for cash and delivered immediately. Rice marketing is regulated in Japan and imports are virtually banned. The government buys the staple grain from farmers and resells it to consumers at set prices that are several times world market prices. Japan's ministry of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, which oversees the government food control system, has devised a plan to gradually replace the regulated rice market in three or four years with one that imposes no restriction on grades of quality, production areas or trading volume, the report said.

Yousef Hiyasat

Cabinet eases loan burden for 10,000 Jordanians

AMMAN (J.T.) — At least 10,000 Jordanian citizens will benefit from the Cabinet's decision, announced Sunday, which allowed spreading payments of loans due to the Housing Corporation over 30 years instead of 20, according to Housing Corporation Director Yousef Hiyasat.

He said that the corporation will now have to reschedule the repayment of loans given to beneficiaries in accordance with their own wishes and within the 30-year tenure.

As a result, up to JD 60 million could be the total amount subject to the rescheduling process, Hiyasat noted in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The Cabinet in a statement Sunday, endorsed a law allowing for the extra 10 year extension period and said that this applies to all beneficiaries.

Previously this arrangement favoured only beneficiaries of the Abu Nusair housing estate. Beneficiaries of the Housing Corporation projects will have their monthly instalment cut by 10 per cent to 25 per cent if they decide to spread their loans over an additional 10 years, Hiyasat noted.

He said the arrangement will take effect as of the coming month.

'Prepare for united Europe'

KUWAIT (R) — A leading economist has warned businesses and governments in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to prepare for more difficult access to European markets.

In a monthly report released Sunday, Gulf International Bank (GIB) chief economist Henry Azzam said the 12 members of the European Community (EC) might impose stricter trade policies and limits on the activities of non-EC institutions when they abolish trade barriers within the Community in 1992.

"Internationally-oriented Gulf financial institutions and exporters of refined (oil) and petrochemical products from the region should develop strategies that will help them better compete in the European-wide markets,"

he said. He said branches of Gulf banks and financial institutions already established in the EC might benefit from more liberal European markets, but warned they might have to set up fully-fledged subsidiaries to engage in certain activities.

Azzam said the EC was considering requiring full reciprocity as a condition for access to its financial markets, and as a result, some GCC countries might be forced to consider opening up their economies to European investment banking.

Some European and American companies and producers had already taken the lead in dealing with the new situation by setting up subsidiaries in the EC, said

Azzam, who is based in Bahrain. But he argued that this would be impractical for Gulf refiners and petrochemical producers, who relative advantage was the cheap feedstocks available to them in the Gulf.

The GCC, which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have been building a massive petrochemical industry to diversify their economies.

The EC has imposed a 12 to 14 per cent tariff on the bulk of GCC petrochemical exports, but has agreed to negotiate the issue.

"There is no alternative for the GCC countries other than to pursue forcefully the goal of establishing a free trade agreement with the EC," he added.

FAO reveals severe African hardships

NAIROBI (R) — Some African countries are so economically strapped they may not be able to afford food imports this year, the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said Monday.

It said that 45 African states south of the Sahara face a stiff rise in their food import bills this year because of high world prices.

The Rome-based FAO, in a report released here, said that if prices held at current levels for the rest of the year 45 countries' import bill would rise by 40 per cent to \$1 billion. The report includes South Africa.

It said import costs were rising at a time when many countries were suffering from growing foreign debt, higher interest rates, falling foreign exchange reserves and limits on imports as part of government austerity measures.

"Against this background it is anticipated that some African countries may not be able to afford their normal commercial cereal imports, resulting in a further erosion of per capita food availability," it declared.

It estimated sub-Saharan Africa's cereal import needs at 8.2 million tonnes for the 1988/89 marketing year, which varies from region to region in the continent. For most countries in southern and east Africa it will have closed by the end of June.

FAO expected 4.5 million tonnes of such needs to be met by commercial imports resulting in food aid needs of 3.7 million tonnes, nearly all of which has been pledged by donors.

It said it was too early to assess crop and food supply prospects for 1988/89 because main season

al crops were only now being sown in the Sahelian countries of West Africa, and in Ethiopia and Sudan.

with the average old age, disability or veterans pension put at 44,000 (\$52) monthly.

Cheaper vodkas are available at all Poles, but most varieties of liquor, including imported brands, must be purchased for hard currency at special stores.

Last week, prices for sugar, refrigerators and washing machines were raised. The government is attempting to move prices closer to the state-subsidised cost of production.

The price rises come at a sensitive time, following the freest elections in Poland's communist history during which candidates from the Solidarity-led opposition won nearly all of the legislative seats not reserved for the

Communist Party.

Legal again after a seven-year ban and now a partner with the government in Poland's political and economic life, Solidarity may risk be assigned a degree of responsibility for the increases.

The union and government have agreed that salaries will be automatically raised to cover 80 per cent of average price increases, but there is a several-month lag between the time new prices take effect and workers actually receive raises.

The annual inflation rate in Poland is officially projected at about 60 per cent annually but already this year is running at a rate of more than 100 per cent.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, June 26, 1989		Central Bank official rates	
		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar		563.5	569.5
Pound Sterling		873.7	882.4
Deutschmark		288.7	291.6
Swiss franc		336.6	340.4
French franc		402.7	406.7
Dutch guilder		256.2	258.8
Swedish krona		85.2	86.1
Italian lira (for 100)		39.8	40.2
Belgian franc (for 10)		137.9	139.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES	
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.	
One Sterling	1.5525/25
One U.S. dollar	1.1938/48
	1.9503/10
2.1970/80	
1.6767/77	
40.83/86	
6.6160/210	
1413/1414	
140.10/20	
6.6100/50	
7.1175/225	
7.5950/6000	
One ounce of gold	375.65/376.15
U.S. dollars	
Canadian dollar	
Deutsche marks	
Dutch guilders	
Swiss francs	
Belgian francs	
French francs	
Italian lire	
Japanese yen	
Swedish kronas	
Norwegian crowns	
Danish crowns	
U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The market closed slightly easier in subdued trading dominated by another sharp fall in the stock of property group Hooker Corp. The All Ordinaries index fell 1.2 to 1,509.4.

TOKYO — Dealers tried to boost the market by stirring up interest in large-capital stocks, but prices only managed to close to 33,625.82.

HONG KONG — Stocks finished higher in thin trading buoyed by news that China had appointed a new Communist Party leader. The Hang Seng index was up 47.57 at 2,266.57.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed generally lower but above the day's lows on late bargain-hunting. The Straits Times industrial index shed 2.71 points to 1,287.58.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell after the market turned nervous following violence by Sikh extremists in Punjab state. Nocil fell 12.5 rupees to 985 and Hindustan Aluminium 8.75 to 296.25.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended mixed as the market consolidated after sharp gains last week but dealers said the mood was still positive. The DAX index closed 3.45 points down at 1,487.75.

ZURICH — Shares closed slightly lower on light selling pressure in low turnover. The all-share Swiss index fell 5.8 to 1,095.1.

PARIS — Prices slipped back from their opening gains in fairly quiet trading.

LONDON — Prices continued to move ahead in late trading after hesitating on the lower Wall Street opening. But business was thin and nervous ahead of Tuesday's publication of the U.K. trade and current account data for May. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was at a day's high of 2,183.1, up 15.6 on the previous close.

NEW YORK — Blue chips were lower but above their lows and the general market was slightly down in morning trading. The Dow was down nine at 2,523.

Mexico extends anti-inflation pact

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico has extended an anti-inflation programme, including a wage and price freeze, for eight months to give Mexican officials an edge in their current debt talks with foreign banks.

Government, business, labour and farm sector representatives have signed the agreement.

A similar agreement, including a price freeze and daily peso devaluation, had been signed in

December 1988 and was scheduled to expire at the end of July.

Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said the extension of the so-called pact for economic growth and stability would help Mexico in its foreign debt negotiations.

Edberg launches defence in style

WIMBLEDON

LONDON (R) — Stefan Edberg of Sweden, unexpectedly beaten in his previous two singles matches, comfortably survived opening contest of his Wimbledon men's title defence against Canada's Chris Pridham Monday.

The 103rd staging of the world's oldest tennis tournament began in warm sunshine, the weather less oppressive than in recent days, and Edberg found them ideal conditions for a recuperative 6-3, 6-4, 6-1 win on centre court.

Edberg, the second seed here behind world number one Ivan Lendl, lost to American Michael Chang, 17, in the French open last June 11 and, two days later and even more surprisingly, was beaten in straight sets by another teenager, Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela, in the London grass-court tournament.

Against Pridham, who is 24, Edberg looked pleased to be playing someone nearer his own age, and he dispensed with the world's 13th ranked player in 89 minutes.

Other seeds to win easily at the start of the tournament included Austria's Krizik, Mikael Pernfors and Amos Mansdorf, seeded 13th, 15th, and 16th respectively.

Slobodan Zivojinovic of Yugoslavia was another first-round winner in a match between two former Wimbledon semi-finalists who are unseeded this



Stefan Edberg

SPORTS IN BRIEF

TRADITIONAL GIANTS DOMINATE EUROPE AGAIN — Internazionale's record-breaking triumph in the Italian first division and AC Milan's spectacular Champions' Cup win firmly re-established Milan as the capital of both Italian and European club soccer last season. Twelve months before Italy stages the World Cup finals, Inter Sunday completed the most successful league campaign in their history, finishing with a record 82 points and 26 wins to take the title for the first time since 1980. Both Milan teams signed off on the last weekend of action in the major continental leagues with typically accomplished performances to cap a season which saw the established European giants regain the ascendancy. Arsenal, for the first time since 1971, took the English league title to London with virtually the last kick of their season. (R)

DANCEHALL A TWO-LENGTH WINNER — Dancehall brilliantly won the Grand Prix De Paris by two lengths at longchamp Sunday and never looked likely to be beaten. By his victory, Dancehall paid a major compliment to Old Vic, who had trounced him by seven lengths in the Prix Du Jockey Club at Chantilly three weeks ago. This time, with no Old Vic in the field, Dancehall looked supreme under Cash Aasmussen, who tucked in along the rails then sent him past the pacemaking Corviglia 1½ furlongs out. Dancehall went clear to record his fifth win in six races. (R)

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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SCORE THEM ONE AT A TIME!

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ J 10 6 2
♦ 6 3
♦ 7 5 4
♦ A J 8 4
WEST: EAST
4 0 7 4
♦ 0 1 0
9 8 7 4
0 0 6
4 K 9 6 3 2
♦ 4 Q 10 5
SOUTH:
♦ A K 9 8 3
♦ K A 5 2
♦ 3 9 2
♦ 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 Pass 2 ♦ Pass
4 ♦ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♦

Do the secondary schools in your area have bridge clubs? If not, perhaps they would be interested to learn that the ACBL Educational Foundation has ample funds available to help develop bridge programs in schools. Just find a teacher who is interested in sponsoring a bridge group, show him or her this column and have the teacher write to the ACBL Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 161192, Memphis, Tenn. 38186 for help in keeping bridge among the nation's favorite pastimes.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This can turn out to be a relatively rewarding day with progress toward chosen goals. Listed to suggestions on how best to use your time. This is a day of doing, rather than thinking.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Tell others who think you have changed that "you are the same old you" — just feeling more at ease and emotionally collected.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Take care of complex money matters before they get out of hand. Small problems can mushroom into larger ones.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If everything feels in a turmoil today, it may be because of a long list of unfinished tasks. High energy for added organization.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Concentrate on your sense of worth. Create new work methods and use your creative versatility to improve.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your mood has improved. Join in group activities. Give others the benefit of the doubt until you study matters further.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Putting your sex appeal on parade may catch an eye or two. You have charisma, and are intriguing to others. Don't overdo it!

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) It may be difficult to keep a secret or hide a clandestine arrangement. You feel a need for independence, diversity and speculation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Focus on making a fresh start. Reorganize basic issues pertaining

to personal routines, home life and a balanced budget. Shop prudently.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Business connections with new associates are worth considering. You are optimistic about the future. Make theater reservations today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are happy when you are productive, but today may be difficult to keep steady. Pay attention to finances — fight temptation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may be criticized for your ambition. Tell them "there is more to life than staying alive just to see what happens next."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 18) If you force a hasty, angry conclusion early today, you may have to make peace later. Avoid a fit-for-a-tar argument. Use creative talents.

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IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY

He or she will be artistic, humorous and compassionate. Your little daydreamer will surprise everyone with his or her talents and creative enterprises. Formal education may be difficult if your child prefers the arts, but will be big in diversity and speculation.

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No radiation from crippled submarine, Soviet official says

Soviet nuclear submarine limps towards home base

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A Soviet nuclear-powered submarine was limping toward home base Monday after an accident crippled its nuclear reactor, but there was no leak of radiation, officials said.

"There has been no radiation leak. There are no casualties," Yuri Gremitskikh, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, told Reuters.

"Everything is all right now, thank God," he said. "We got around it."

The accident, the second on board a Soviet submarine off Norway 350 kilometres south of Norway's Bear Island. The main power-generating unit was subsequently shut down.

Gremitskikh denied Norwegian reports that there had been a fire on board the submarine.

"There was no fire as such," he said. "There was a breakdown."

But in Oslo, Norway's Foreign

Ministry publicly complained that for the third time in three months Moscow had failed to inform it of a serious naval incident off the Norwegian coast.

"We do not find it satisfactory that for the third time... we have had to ask Soviet authorities for information on accidents which have happened this close to Norway," Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Sigrid Romundset told a news conference.

The Norwegian news agency NTB was first to give news of the incident, followed by the official Soviet news agency TASS.

NTB said the stricken submarine was of the Echo-II class which has two nuclear reactors

and normally carries about 90 crew. According to the authoritative Jane's Fighting Ships it also carries nuclear weapons.

But the Soviet spokesman could not confirm the identification.

"According to the report of the commander of the nuclear submarine, there was a failure of the air-tight seal of the primary circuit of the reactor," TASS said in its report, without elaborating.

"The main energy installation of the submarine is turned off," it said. The submarine was on the surface and heading back to base in Murmansk under auxiliary power at about five knots.

TASS did not name the submarine's home base, but it was likely to be Severomorsk, the Soviet naval base north of Murmansk on the Kola Peninsula.

Ships and aircraft of the Soviet northern fleet were heading for

the submarine and constant radio communication was being maintained with it, TASS said.

In Norway, Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst told NTB that Soviet authorities had declined assistance from Oslo.

"I have been told that a Soviet rescue operation is being carried out, but I have no further details," Holst said.

A Norwegian F-16 jet reported smoke coming from the submarine at about 0430 GMT Monday. A Norwegian helicopter went to the scene and spotted the crew standing on deck wearing life jackets.

"The helicopters was waved away," Holst said.

A Western scientific expert in Moscow said the accident as described by TASS would be quite serious but probably would not lead to a radioactive leak.



BURNING PROTEST... A group of Bharatiya Janata Party workers burn a TV set outside the Indian television station in New Delhi to dramatize their claim that the ruling Congress (I) Party of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is misusing the airwaves to boost its election chances.

Punjab shops close in protest of Hindu killings

CHANDIGARH, India (R) —

Most urban shops, private businesses, schools and colleges across north India's Punjab state closed Monday in protest at the killing of 24 Hindus by Sikh extremists.

In some towns, private buses and taxis joined the strike in anger at the killing Sunday of members of the right-wing Hindu Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) as they performed martial exercises in a public park at Moga, a town

160 kilometres west of the Punjab capital Chandigarh.

It was the worst incident for several months in the militants' long struggle for an independent Sikh homeland and took this year's death toll to more than 950 people. Last year more than 2,500 were killed.

Police said most shops which did open in Punjab towns closed later, often after being threatened by young men on

motorcycles. No violence was reported.

In New Delhi, dozens of right-wing Hindus were detained during an angry demonstration near the heavily-guarded bungalow of Home Minister Buta Singh.

Supporters of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party and RSS burst through police barriers near the house, demanding Singh's resignation for failing to protect Punjab's Hindus, most of whom live in towns.

Nationwide strike brings Sri Lanka life to standstill

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Three bombs exploded, traffic halted and shops closed Monday during a nationwide strike called by Sinhalese extremists in support of 40,000 bus drivers on strike since June 12 to demand higher wages.

"We warn anti-national elements they will be shot or fall victim to explosive devices if they fail to heed our warning," said handwritten posters plastered throughout the capital and signed by Keerthi Wijebahu, commander of the front.

The front opposed the government's order the bus drivers to either report for work Monday or lose their jobs. But the ultimatum was ignored and soldiers were driving the government-owned buses.

The People's Liberation Front, an extremist Sinhalese group, cal-

led the daylong strike and ordered people to stay inside their homes as a show of support for the 40,000 bus drivers on strike since June 12 to demand higher wages.

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A few private vehicles plied the

roads, bearing white flags indicating they were attending a funeral or on an urgent errand.

Downtown Colombo, which is usually bustling by 9 a.m. Monday, was virtually deserted except for a few police officers.

Businesses, banks and markets all closed their shutters.

"I cannot find a shop to even buy a cigarette," said one policeman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

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A few private vehicles plied the

MADRID (R) — After covering the first 40 European Community summits stretching back to 1975, Danish journalist Mogens Bryde is taking it easy at number 41 in Madrid — he's on strike. The journalists' Union of Denmark's National News Agency Ritzhauz went on strike over pay last Thursday.

Bridge, the Brussels correspondent, had already arrived in Madrid for the two-day meeting which opened Monday with 1,700 journalists, photographers and television crews accredited to cover it. "I have to be here in any case because the strike might end today and I'll have to write something tomorrow," he said.

Journalist covers 41st EC summit — but no dispatch

FREMONT, Nebraska (AP) — Christmas came to this eastern Nebraska community six months early Sunday at a church where worshippers celebrated with carols, cookies and a pageant but no Santa Claus. The Reverend Craig Schultz said Trinity Lutheran Church decided to celebrate Christmas again June 25 so that its true message could be heard without the distractions that usually accompany the holiday. Two trees with lights and garlands adorned the altar of the church about 65 kilometers northeast of Omaha. Six wreaths with red velvet bows surrounded candles. "Christmas is not only for Christmas time. It's for all year round," said Clara Drue, a longtime member of the nearly 1,800-member congregation who described herself as "Pastor 70." "It should always be Christmas in our hearts," she said. Schultz said the service was a chance to focus on the birth of Jesus Christ. "The reason for Christmas is a 365-day-a-year reason," he said. "Around Dec. 25, it gets caught up in the presents." Children dressed as shepherds re-enacted the story of Jesus' birth in a pageant complete with a crying baby. A choir led worshippers in the mostly filled 600-seat church in songs such as "Joy to the World."

Christmas in June

Bata apologises for shoe motif

TORONTO (Agencies) — Executives of the Canadian shoe company Bata Ltd. have apologized to the prime minister of Bangladesh and pledged to destroy a range of female slippers following protests in Dhaka against their sale.

Muslim fundamentalists in Dhaka threw stones at shoe stores selling Bata slippers with a motif on the insole which they said resembled the Arabic word for Allah.

At least 50 people were injured and dozens arrested in the protest, called by student and youth groups after newspapers printed pictures of the slipper.

The Bangladeshi government had already ordered the confiscation of all the offending slippers. Bata said the motif was of "banging bells" and not intended to hurt religious feelings.



However, the explanation was not enough to pacify people angered by the footwear.

Thousands of people emerged from mosques after Friday prayers threw stones at Bata

shops.

Hundreds of police guarding

Bata stores used truncheons to break up fighting between the fundamentalists and supporters of Awami League, Bang-

ladesh's largest political party.

Police said the fight (right)

started when protesters attacked the Awami League office near Dhaka's largest Baitul Mokarram mosque.

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